## What Is Claimed is:

1. A method for interactive wagering with an interactive wagering application implemented using user equipment, comprising:

allowing a user at the user equipment to use the interactive wagering application to select desired wagering criteria;

using the interactive wagering application to determine whether a desired wagering opportunity exists by determining whether the wagering criteria are satisfied; and

using the interactive wagering application to automatically take a particular action whenever the wagering criteria are satisfied.

- 2. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising using the interactive wagering application to provide the user with an opportunity to select which particular action is taken whenever the wagering criteria are satisfied.
- 3. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the interactive wagering application is implemented using user television equipment, the method further comprising using the interactive wagering application implemented on the user television equipment to determine whether the wagering criteria are satisfied.
- 4. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising using the interactive wagering application to provide the user with an opportunity to select a particular racetrack as one of the wagering criteria.

- 5. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising using the interactive wagering application to provide the user with an opportunity to select a particular horse as one of the wagering criteria.
- 6. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising using the interactive wagering application to provide the user with an opportunity to select a particular horse as one of the wagering criteria by searching for a desired horse with an on-screen user interface that allows the user to enter a search character string with a remote control.
- 7. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising using the interactive wagering application to provide the user with an opportunity to select a particular jockey as one of the wagering criteria.
- 8. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising using the interactive wagering application to provide the user with an opportunity to select a particular trainer as one of the wagering criteria.
- 9. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising using the interactive wagering application to provide the user with an opportunity to select a particular track surface as one of the wagering criteria.
- 10. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising using the interactive wagering application to provide the user with an opportunity to select a

particular race distance as one of the wagering criteria.

- 11. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising using the interactive wagering application to provide the user with an opportunity to select a particular racing statistic as one of the wagering criteria.
- 12. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising using the interactive wagering application to provide the user with an opportunity to select a particular silk color as one of the wagering criteria.
- 13. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising using the interactive wagering application to provide the user with an opportunity to select a particular amount by which the odds for a horse change from that horse's morning line odds as one of the wagering criteria.
- 14. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to select whether the action taken involves the automatic placing of a wager whenever the wagering criteria are satisfied.
- 15. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the action taken involves the automatic placing of a wager whenever the wagering criteria are satisfied, the method further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to select a wager amount and wager type

associated with the wagering criteria prior to the automatic placing of the wager.

- there are multiple sets of wagering criteria established by the user each with an associated action to be taken when that set of wagering criteria is satisfied, the method further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to select a different wager amount and wager type for each of the multiple sets of wagering criteria.
- 17. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising providing different user interfaces with the wagering application for selecting different types of wagering criteria.
- 18. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to select whether the action taken involves notification of the user.
- 19. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the action taken involves notification of the user at a set-top box connected to a television, the method further comprising notifying the user by displaying a partial-screen overlay message on top of a screen currently being displayed on the television.
- 20. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the action taken involves notification of the user, the method further comprising notifying the user that the

wagering criteria have been satisfied using an e-mail message.

- 21. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the action taken involves notification of the user, the method further comprising notifying the user that the wagering criteria have been satisfied using a wireless message.
- 22. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the action taken involves notification of the user at a set-top box connected to a television, the method further comprising notifying the user that the wagering criteria have been satisfied by displaying a message on the television.
- 23. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising using the wagering application to provide a display screen containing a summary of which types of wagering criteria have been established.
- 24. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising using the wagering application to provide a display screen containing a summary of which types of wagering criteria have been established, wherein the summary includes information on wager amounts and wager types that the user has established for use whenever various sets of wagering criteria are satisfied.
- 25. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising:

using the wagering application to provide a display screen containing a summary of which types of wagering criteria have been established, wherein the summary includes information on wager amounts and wager types that the user has established for use whenever various sets of wagering criteria are satisfied; and

displaying wagering criteria details for a given one of the sets of wagering criteria when the user selects that set from the summary.

- 26. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising using the wagering application to limit automatic wagering based on monetary wagering limits.
- 27. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to select a desired monetary wagering limit; and using the wagering application to limit automatic wagering based on the monetary wagering limit.

- 28. The method defined in claim 1 further comprising using the wagering application to provide the user with an opportunity to select an expiration time for automatic wagering.
- 29. A method for interactive wagering on horse races with an interactive wagering application implemented using a set-top box connected to a television, comprising:

providing a user with an opportunity to select a given horse using the interactive wagering application; and

automatically placing a wager for the given horse when it is determined that the given horse is to run in a particular race.

- 30. The method defined in claim 29 further comprising providing the user with an opportunity to select the amount of the wager and the wager type with the interactive wagering application.
- 31. The method defined in claim 29 further comprising:

providing the user with an opportunity to select multiple horses using the wagering application; and

automatically placing wagers for each horse when it is determined that the horse is to run in a particular race.

32. An interactive wagering system in which an interactive wagering application is used to provide a user with an opportunity to place wagers on races to be run, comprising:

automatically place a wager for the given horse when it is determined that the given horse is to run in a particular race; and

a transaction processing and subscription management system that handles the automatically placed wager.

33. The interactive wagering system defined in claim 32 further comprising user computer equipment separate from the user television equipment, wherein the interactive wagering application notifies the user at the user computer equipment by e-mail when the automatic wager has been placed.

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